

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A fixing device comprising:

means for pressing, when a primary transfer toner image produced by transferring a toner image from a photoconductive element to a first image transfer body is to be transferred to a second image transfer body by secondary image transfer, said second image transfer body against said first image transfer body;

means for heating said second image transfer body after the secondary image transfer to thereby fix a secondary transfer image on said second image transfer body;

a press-fixing unit comprising a first press roller configured to press said second image transfer body against said means for heating and a second press roller configured to press said second image transfer body against said means for heating; and

means for conveying said second image transfer body from a nip for secondary image transfer between said first image transfer body and said means for pressing to a nip for fixation between said means for heating and said first and second press rollers.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said means for conveying comprises an endless belt movable from the nip for secondary image transfer to the nip for fixation.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The device as claimed in claim 2, wherein said means for conveying further comprises means for electrostatically retaining said second image transfer body on said endless belt.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The device as claimed in claim 3, wherein said

means for conveying further comprises means for canceling electrostatic attraction acting on said second image transfer body.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): An image forming apparatus comprising:

first means for transferring a toner image formed on a photoconductive element to a first image transfer body one time or a plurality of times by primary image transfer;

second means for transferring a primary transfer toner image transferred to said first image transfer body by said first means for transferring to a second image transfer body by secondary image transfer;

a fixing unit comprising means for heating said second image transfer body, a first press roller configured to press said second image transfer body against said means for heating, and a second press roller configured to press said second image transfer body against said means for heating; and

means for conveying said second image transfer body from said second means for transferring to said fixing unit.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein said means for conveying comprises an endless belt movable from a nip for the secondary image transfer to a nip for fixation.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein said means for conveying further comprises first means for applying a bias, which is opposite in polarity to a bias applied to said first image transfer body for the secondary image transfer, to said endless belt.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein said first means for applying applies the bias to said endless belt at the same time as the bias for the secondary image transfer is applied to said first image transfer body for thereby assisting said secondary image transfer.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, further comprising second means for applying a bias, which is opposite in polarity to the bias applied by said first means for applying, to said endless belt conveying said second image transfer body after fixation.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, further comprising means for grounding said endless belt.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A color image forming apparatus comprising:  
means for forming, in accordance with image data, a toner image of a particular color  
on each of a plurality of photoconductive elements;

means for sequentially transferring toner images of different colors formed on said plurality of photoconductive elements to a first image transfer body one above the other by primary image transfer to thereby complete a primary transfer toner image; and

a transferring/fixing unit configured to transfer the primary transfer toner image to a second image transfer body by secondary image transfer and to fix said secondary transfer toner image on said second image transfer body, said transferring/fixing unit comprising means for heating a second image transfer body, a first press roller configured to press said second image transfer body against said means for heating, a second press roller configured to press said second image transfer body against said means for heating, and an endless belt

configured to convey said secondary image transfer body from a nip for the secondary image transfer to a nip for fixation.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein said transferring/fixing unit further comprises a first roller facing said first image transfer body and said endless belt is passed over said first, first press, and second press rollers.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 12, further comprising first means for applying a bias, which is opposite in polarity to a bias for the secondary image transfer applied to said first image transfer body, to said first roller.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein said first means for applying applies the bias at the same time as the bias for the secondary image transfer is applied to said first image transfer body for thereby assisting the secondary image transfer.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

second means for applying a bias, which is opposite in polarity to the bias applied by said first means for applying, to said first press roller; and

means for grounding said endless belt in contact with said endless belt.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 13, further comprising means for grounding said endless belt in contact with said endless belt.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein said endless belt is passed over a plurality of rollers including said first, first press, and second press rollers and a third roller positioned downstream of said first roller in a direction of conveyance.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, further comprising means for heating said endless belt.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 12, further comprising means for causing said endless belt and said first image transfer body to selectively contact each other.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein at least one of the first and second press rollers accommodates means for heating at least one of the first and second press rollers therein.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 12, further comprising at least one of first means for heating disposed in any one of said first, first press, and second press rollers and second means for heating positioned outside of the one roller.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein said second roller consists of two divided rollers facing said first image transfer body.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): A color image forming apparatus comprising:  
means for sequentially forming, in accordance with image data, color toner images on

a photoconductive element with toners of a plurality of different colors;

means for sequentially transferring the color toner images from said photoconductive element to a first image transfer body one above the other by primary image transfer to thereby complete a primary transfer toner image; and

a transferring/fixing unit configured to transfer the primary transfer toner image to a second image transfer body by secondary image transfer and to fix a secondary transfer toner image on said second image transfer body, said transferring/fixing unit comprising means for heating a second image transfer body, a first press roller configured to press said second image transfer body against means for heating, a second press roller configured to press said second image transfer body against means for heating, and an endless belt configured to convey said second image transfer body from a nip for the secondary image transfer to a nip for fixation.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 23, wherein said ~~transferring/fixing unit further comprises a first roller facing said first image transfer body~~ and said endless belt is passed over said first, first press, and second press rollers.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 24, further comprising first means for applying a bias, which is opposite in polarity to a bias for the secondary image transfer applied to said first image transfer body, to said first roller.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein said first means for applying applies the bias at the same time as the bias for the secondary image transfer is applied to said first image transfer body for thereby assisting the secondary image transfer.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 25, further comprising:

second means for applying a bias, which is opposite in polarity to the bias applied by said first means for applying, to said first press roller; and

means for grounding said endless belt in contact with said endless belt.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 25, further comprising means for grounding said endless belt in contact with said endless belt.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein said endless belt is passed over said first roller, said first press roller, said second press roller and a third roller positioned downstream of said first press roller in a direction of conveyance.

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~~Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 29, further comprising means for heating said endless belt.~~

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 24, further comprising means for causing said endless belt and said first image transfer body to selectively contact each other.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein said at least one of the first and second press rollers accommodates means for heating at least one of the first and second press rollers therein.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 24, further comprising at least one of first means for heating disposed in any one of said first and second press rollers and second means for heating positioned outside of the one roller.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein said second roller consists of two divided rollers facing said first image transfer body.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): A fixing device comprising:  
a conveying belt configured to be held in contact with an intermediate image transfer body to which a toner image is transferred from a photoconductive element[[,]] and to form forming a nip for image transfer; and  
a rotary heating member configured to form forming a nip for fixation in contact with said conveying belt,  
a first press roller configured to press said conveying belt against said rotary heating member, and  
a second press roller configured to press said conveying belt against said rotary heating member.

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): The fixing device as claimed in Claim 35, further comprising ~~sucking~~ means for attracting a sheet to ~~causing~~ said conveying belt ~~to suck a sheet.~~

Claim 37 (Currently Amended): The fixing device as claimed in Claim 36, further comprising ~~canceled~~ means for canceling a condition in which the sheet is attracted ~~sucked~~ by said conveying belt.



Claim 38 (Currently Amended): ~~An~~ In an image forming apparatus comprising a photoconductive element, an intermediate image transfer body to which a toner is transferred from said photoconductive element and a fixing device, said fixing device comprising:

a conveying belt configured to be held in contact with said intermediate image transfer body to thereby form ~~forming~~ a nip for image transfer, and

a rotary heating member configured to form ~~forming~~ a nip for fixation in contact with said conveying belt,

a first press roller configured to press said conveying belt against said rotary heating member, and

a second press roller configured to press said conveying belt against said rotary heating member.

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus as claimed in Claim 38, further comprising ~~bias voltage applying means for applying a bias voltage, which is~~ opposite in polarity to a voltage for secondary image transfer supplied to said intermediate image transfer body, to said conveying belt.